

memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, (ii) selecting a proposed group travel product based on the aggregated information, and (iii) providing information reflecting the proposed group travel product to the remote user based on the remote user identification information.

8. A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggregating and satisfying demand for travel products, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

selecting a proposed group travel product based on the aggregated information; and providing information reflecting the proposed group travel product to the remote user based on the remote user identification information.

Please add Claims 23-28 as follows:

23. A method according to Claim 1, wherein
said aggregating step aggregates a plurality of items that collectively form a set of travel products,

said providing aggregated information provides aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, wherein each supplier is at least capable of supplying at least one of the items in the set of travel products,

said receiving receives proposed responses from at least one supplier for each item in the set of travel products, and

said providing the proposed response gathers the proposed responses into at least one proposed set of travel products and provides information reflecting the proposed set of travel products to the remote user.

24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein a first supplier has a first discount on a first item in the set of travel products and a second supplier has a second discount on a second item in the set of travel products, and wherein said providing the proposed response selects the items respectively from said first and second supplier and provides information reflecting the first and second discounts to the remote user.

25. A system according to Claim 4, wherein
said aggregating information instruction aggregates a plurality of items that collectively form a set of travel products,

 said providing aggregated information instruction provides aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, wherein each supplier is at least capable of supplying at least one of the items in the set of travel products,

 said receiving instruction receives proposed responses from at least one supplier for each item in the set of travel products, and

 said providing the proposed response instruction gathers the proposed responses into a proposed at least one set of travel products and provides information reflecting the proposed set of travel products to the remote user.

26. A system according to Claim 25, wherein a first supplier has a first discount on a first item in the set of travel products and a second supplier has a second discount on a second item in the set of travel products, and wherein said providing the proposed response instruction selects the items respectively from said first and second supplier and provides information reflecting the first and second discounts to the remote user.

27. A computer readable medium according to Claim 7, wherein
said aggregating information aggregates a plurality of items that collectively form a set of travel products,

 said providing aggregated information provides aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, wherein each supplier is at least capable of supplying at least one of the items in the set of travel products,

said receiving receives proposed responses from at least one supplier for each item in the set of travel products, and

said providing the proposed response gathers the proposed responses into at least one proposed set of travel products and provides information reflecting the proposed set of travel products to the remote user.

28. A computer readable medium according to Claim 27, wherein a first supplier has a first discount on a first item in the set of travel products and a second supplier has a second discount on a second item in the set of travel products, and wherein said providing the proposed response selects the items respectively from said first and second supplier and provides information reflecting the first and second discounts to the remote user.

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated January 14, 2003. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In response to the Office Action, Applicant has cancelled non-elected claims 10-22, amended Claims 2, 5, and 8, and added new Claims 23-28. Applicant submits that the amendments to Claims 2, 5, and 8 were made to more clearly define the claimed invention. Following this amendment, the application includes, six independent claims and fifteen total claims, with Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 being in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are patentable over the cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application.

With reference to the Office Action, Claims 1-9 of the application have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,260,024 to Shkedy. To paraphrase, the Office Action alleges that the '024 Shkedy patent discloses aggregating purchase orders, providing the aggregate orders to suppliers, finding a supplier to meet the orders, and contracting the buyer and seller. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

Applicant notes an important difference between the claimed invention and the disclosure of the '024 Shkedy patent. The present invention provides a system based on a different type of sales model from that disclosed in the '024 Shkedy patent. Specifically, the system described in